

03 Kashmiri Pandit legacy central to Kashmir's composite culture: Dr Jitendra

03 Protests outside Lok Bhavan in Jammu over medical college admission row

10 Volleyball Tournament begins at Lower Mela

Website : www.statetimes.in, Email: statetimes1@gmail.com



Call 112

One Call. Instant Help





Save it Share it
Save Life

24/7

DIP/J-9485/25

Department of Information & Public Relations, J&K

[@informationprjk](#) [Information & PR, J&K](#) [@diprjk](#) [@dipr_jk](#)

Addresses 11th Convocation Ceremony of SMVDU Goal of developed India by 2047 rests on knowledge economy: LG



LG Manoj Sinha at the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University at Kakryal on Saturday.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS
JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, graced the 11th Convocation Ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, on Saturday.

In his convocation address, the Lieutenant Governor spoke about the imperative of shifting from outdated, rote learning system to more modern and skill-based learning approaches to meet the demands of an evolving world.

"Our endeavour should be reduction in curriculum load

and development of adaptable skills for future jobs.

Even if a single student of any higher education institution is unemployed or not setting up his or her enterprise, then it clearly means that the educational institution and its teachers have not done their work honestly," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the students to create new paths in life, give new direction to life, explore new aspects and suggest new ways for the prosperity of the nation.

"To achieve the goal of a

developed India by 2047, every student, every educational institution will have to fulfil its responsibility because the future and its development will be based on the knowledge economy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor gave five solutions to keep pace with technological change and the demands of the 21st-century workforces.

"Integrate artificial intelligence into teaching, learning and university operations and adopt new

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

SP South Jammu Dr Ajay Sharma awarded Ph.D degree



KATRA: Jammu and Kashmir Police officer Ajay Sharma, JKPS, was awarded Ph.D. degree at the 11th convocation held at Shri Mata Vaishnodevi University with Chancellor of the university and LG of JKUT as Chief Guest. The university had earlier officially notified for the award of his degree on October 20, 2025.

Ajay Sharma's doctoral research, titled "On the Alleged Role of Religion in Fostering Fundamentalism," is a one of its kind study that delves into the intricate connections between religion, ideology, and social identity. His work critically examines how certain interpretations of religious beliefs can contribute to radicalization, extremism, and communal polarization and at the same time how the right interpretation and understanding of religion and religious beliefs can bring the society together. By exploring these complex dynamics, the research provides a deeper understand

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Army intensifies winter operations in J&K to flush out Pakistani terrorists

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

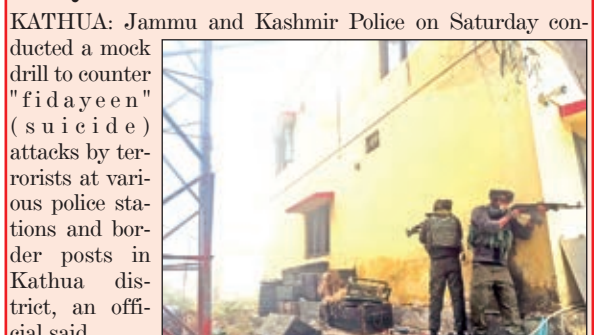
NEW DELHI: Amid freezing temperatures and treacherous terrains, the Indian Army has intensified its counter-terrorism operations across Kishtwar and Doda districts in Jammu and Kashmir to pursue and neutralise Pakistani terrorists attempting to exploit the harsh winter for concealment, sources said on Saturday.

Traditionally, the onset of the 40-day 'Chillai Kalan', the harshest phase of winter in the Kashmir Valley from December 21 to January 31, ushers in a 'temporary lull' in terrorist activities, as communication routes close and heavy snowfall isolates the mountain regions, they said.

However, this winter has marked a "decisive shift" in the operational approach of the Army and other security forces, a source in the defence establishment said.

Instead of reducing activities, the Army has adopted a "proactive winter posture", establishing temporary bases and surveillance posts deep within the snow-capped areas to maintain pressure

Mock drill to counter suicide attacks by terrorists held across Kathua



KATHUA: Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday conducted a mock drill to counter "fidayeen" (suicide) attacks by terrorists at various police stations and border posts in Kathua district, an official said.

The exercise was conducted under the overall supervision of Kathua Senior Superintendent of Police Mohita Sharma at Rajbagh and Hiranagar police stations and seven border police posts along the international border, a police spokesperson said.

The official said the mock drill was aimed at testing operational preparedness, increase agility and improve response of police personnel to any "fidayeen" attack in police establishments.

Police personnel were initially briefed in tactics of using dominating height, heavy fire power and red alarm system deployed in each establishment, the spokesperson said.

They were also directed to

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police detain 3 OGWs under PSA

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Three suspected Over Ground Workers (OGWs) from south Kashmir's Shopian district have been detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), police said on Saturday.

A police official said they were repeatedly involved in activities prejudicial to peace and security, and despite preventive measures,

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Traffic cop suspended for 'misusing' official vehicle to shoot reels on Mughal Road

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A traffic police sub-inspector has been placed under suspension pending an inquiry for allegedly misusing his official vehicle to shoot a reel on the snow-laden Mughal Road in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said.

In a viral video, sub-inspector Gul Sheraz, posted as sector officer (traffic) on Mughal Road, was

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Ensure convictions under NDPS, UAPA to break terror, narco-criminal ecosystems: IGP

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi, on Saturday conducted an annual review of the crime situation in the valley, and directed officers to ensure convictions in the NDPS Act and UAPA cases to break the narco-criminal and terror ecosystem.

Birdi chaired the annual crime review meeting at PCR Kashmir here, a police spokesperson said.

The meeting was attended by all range deputy inspectors general (DIGs), all district SSPs of Kashmir Zone, and other senior officers.

At the outset, the participating officers briefed the IGP on the overall crime situation in the zone and highlighted their efforts to prevent crime and improve the quality of investigation, the spokesperson said.

Besides general crime, the meeting revolved around the investigation of cases falling under the UAPA, the status of property attachment in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) cases, terror-related and terror-financing cases, detention under the Public Safety Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Togadia warns of stir if all seats of SMVD Medical College not reserved for Hindus

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Former Vishva Hindu Parishad leader Praveen Togadia on Saturday demanded that all 50 seats at the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Medical College should be reserved for Hindus, and warned of an intensified agitation if it was not done.

Togadia, who is the Jammu-based Rashtriya Bajrang Dal's national president, said India will not tolerate the "use of donations made by Hindus for the education of Muslim doctors".

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of a Rashtriya



Former VHP leader Praveen Togadia speaking at an event in Jammu on Saturday.

Bajrang Dal programme in Shakti Nagar here, he said, "I would like the Lieutenant Governor to address this issue otherwise I will myself

find a way." The right-wing Hindu leader said he will not tolerate "any injustice" with the Jammu region.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Police attaches Rs 2 Cr properties of two drug peddlers

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Police on Saturday attached properties worth more than Rs 2 crore of two drug peddlers in Udhampur district, officials said.

The residence of Shakti Singh, along with 1 kanal of land, valued at Rs 1.30 crore, has been attached in connection with a case registered against him under the NDPS Act at the Rehambal police station this year, a police spokesman said.

Another house, along with 1 kanal of land and an SUV, belonging to Koushal Sharma alias Biru, has been attached in connection with a

separate NDPS case registered at the same police station, he said.

The property is worth more than Rs 70 lakh, the spokesman said.

Detailed financial scrutiny and backward linkage analysis established that the properties of the two peddlers were acquired using the proceeds of illicit narcotics trafficking, he said.

Based on these findings, the competent authority passed the attachment orders on Saturday, and further proceedings under the NDPS Act are underway, he said. With the latest

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

WEATHER

Temperature (Jammu)
Max: 18.7°C Min: 7.1°C

Humidity
Max: 86 Min: 72

Temperature (Srinagar)
Max: 10.7°C Min: -2.6°C

Humidity
Max: 94 Min: 78

Sunset : 17:32 Hours
Sunrise : 07:31 Hours

AIIMS Jammu emerges as a national healthcare beacon: Dr Shakti

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: During a media interaction held at AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO, expressed his deep appreciation to the media fraternity for their consistent support and responsible reporting, which has played a vital role in highlighting the institution's growth, achievements and public service initiatives.

He stated that AIIMS Jammu stands today as a symbol of visionary leadership and inclusive healthcare, established under the guidance of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose vision has strengthened healthcare delivery across the nation.

Prof. Gupta emphasized that AIIMS Jammu is not



Dr Shakti Kumar Gupta, Executive Director & CEO AIIMS Jammu addressing media on Saturday.

merely a hospital but a comprehensive ecosystem of healing, learning, innovation, and research. Despite the challenges posed, including those during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute successfully completed 43 major

buildings in a record time of three and a half years. The quality and pace of construction earned national recognition when CPWD received the Best Project Award at the 170th CPWD Annual Day, conferred by the Union

Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar.

Highlighting clinical achievements, Prof. Gupta informed that AIIMS Jammu has treated over 3.68 lakh OPD patients, admitted 8,783 inpatients, handled 22,810 emergency cases, performed 3,283 surgeries across eight modular operation theatres, provided critical care to 1,297 ICU patients, and conducted 1,624 dialysis sessions. Advanced diagnostic services including 60,000+ X-rays, 34,000 ultrasounds, 13,500 CT scans and over 4,000 MRIs have significantly enhanced healthcare access for the people of Jammu & Kashmir.

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9

Had insightful discussions on governance, reforms at chief secretaries' meet: Modi



PM Narendra Modi chairing national conference of chief secretaries at New Delhi.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday chaired a national conference of chief secretaries where he had insightful discussions on various issues relating to governance and reforms, officials said.

The conference marked another important milestone

in strengthening the Centre-state partnership through structured and sustained dialogue on national development priorities, they said.

"Had insightful discussions on various issues relating to governance and reforms during the National Conference of Chief Secretaries being held in Delhi," Modi wrote on

X. The event was attended by P K Mishra and Shaktikanta Das, principal secretaries to the prime minister, Cabinet Secretary T V Somanathan, members of the NITI Aayog, and chief secretaries of all the states and Union territories. Based on the extensive

■ CONTD ON PAGE 9